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The Computer Center for Citizens With Disabilities

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UAAACT News

Utah Augmentative Alternative Assistive Communication and Technology Teams

UAAACT Members Attend CSUN Conference

The UAAACT project had a strong presence at the 2006 California State University Northridge (CSUN) Technology and Persons With Disabilities Conference held in Los Angeles, California from March 22-25, 2006. Forty-four UAAACT members attended CSUN and came away with new skills and information to support the students they serve.

A Group of UAAACT Members on their way to CSUN

Equipment highlights from CSUN include the TANGO and ERICA. The TANGO, from AbleNet, is a new speech device that combines a broad array of communication methods, such as an intuitive language hierarchy, ingenious new icons, and easy-to-access pop-ups, with the vast power of consumer electronics - like a built-in camera and voice morphing, so individuals can better match their specific communication needs with the best features to achieve them.

The ERICA eye gaze system empowers people with disabilities with hands-free communication and computer access. After a quick calibration, users have complete control over the system with their eye. At the request of UAAACT members attending CSUN, both the TANGO and ERICA will be purchased for the UAAACT assessment library.

Free Software

The UAAACT project purchased REACH Interface Author for each team about 18 months ago. The publisher of this software, Applied Human Factors, has offered a free upgrade of their on-screen keyboard until June 30, 2006. Go to www.ahf-net.com to receive your free REACH upgrade.

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Teacher Tools on the Internet

Look below for some fabulous websites with great educational games for children. We tried the PBS kids "Gawain's Word" game and had a lot of fun!

http://www.starfall.com/   Star Fall is an elementary level phonetic spelling site.

http://pbskids.org/lions/games/   activity based literacy activities. The site contains activities as typing the missing letter, spelling and simple stories.

http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bll/ activity based literacy tools for young children. An example of an activity would be what belongs in a home? This site has other activities to explore with students that support literacy.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/storycircle/animal stories/ animal stories and sounds. Very easy to navigate and use with young children. The site even has a Karaoke area one screen prompts and you can print the songs out. Explore this site for many literacy type activities and stories.

http://www.kindersite.org/ This site has links to sites Games, Songs and Stories for young children.

http://www.storyplace.org/ This is a very cute site in English and Spanish. It is a digital library for children.

http://disney.go.com/kids/today/index.html Disney kids island. It is a site that has a mix of activities that go along with characters that are on the Disney channel.

Free AAC Software – PVoice

Using Perl programming language, a father wrote an augmentative communication software program named PVoice. (P for the Perl programming language and Voice, because the software talks.) This software made it possible for his daughter to use the computer for communication. She chooses words and symbols for spoken messages and writing words. PVoice was posted on the Intemet in 2001 and with the assistance of other developers. PVoice is now available free of charge. This free-licensed language comes in versions for Windows, Macintosh, Novell NetWare, and Unix, The software, available in English and Dutch, is an open source project, and a free alternative to other AAC programs and devices.

Simon Hughes writes about PVoice:
I installed the updated version of PVoice and used it with my client for the first time last week. After initial training, the first thing *he chose* was to say "Thank You!".

Picture of a PVoice communication page

PVoice supports digital photographs and allows the person setting up the software to link communication pages in much the same way that Speaking Dynamically Pro creates page links. Craig Boogaard has installed the software on a computer at The Computer Center and printed out the six page user manual. He has found the software to be quiet easy to work. He feels PVOICE has great potential for families who can't afford an expensive AAC device but have access to a computer. You can download the software at: http://www.pvoice.org/

Free Mouse Software

Point-N-Click is a FREE stand-alone on-screen virtual mouse designed for anyone with a disability that makes it difficult or impossible to click a physical computer mouse. As long as they can move a mouse, trackball, headmouse or other pointing device, they can send mouse clicks to virtually any Windows application or DOS application that can run within a window and even many that are full screen.

Do you only need a little help? Maybe you just have difficulty double clicking or switching to right clicking? Try ClickAid mouse helper designed for anyone who has difficulty switching between mouse buttons or double clicking on a physical computer mouse. It will work with all mouse systems including head mice, tablet PCs, and touch screen devices.

Point-N-Click was designed with ease of use foremost in mind. Yes, it's FREE. No charge and no strings attached. For more information see: http://polital.com/pnc/

Free Software to Modify Cursor Size

If you are trying to enlarge the width of the cursor and using Windows
2000 or XP, try this built in feature
http : //www. microsoft, com/enable/train ing/windowsxp/blinkrate.aspx

To enlarge the pointer, use Microsoft's accessibility wizard
http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/accessibility/opsblind.mspx

You can adjust the icons, pointer, text, scroll bar, etc. These are features built into Windows, so your software conflicts should be minimal.

You can download large cursors free from http://rbx.delbig-cursorsl or

http://www.anicursor.com/special.html

These have large cursors that show up very nicely. The larger cursor with the reduced screen resolution might be enough
for your users.

Single Switch Software for Everyone

We specialize in one and two switch training software for people who are unable to access the computer using conventional means. Our goal is to provide switch training in an enjoyable and entertaining context.

Buy Online and Save Up to 20%

You'll save 10% - 20% when you buy from our CD Store powered by PayPal, the award-winning intemet service that allows you to make online payments with peace of mind.

New! - Son of Sights & Sounds

Just when you thouht it was safe to turn on your computer - along comes Son of Sights & Sounds. Featuring three brand new cause & effect activities (popcorn, ants and splotch) along
with five new musical themes this program is a "must have" for fans of the Sights & Sounds series.

Revised! - Super Switch Puzzles
Completely revised from our older Switch Puzzles Series, Super Switch Puzzles is packed with new features including two switch step scanning, single switch auto-scanning access and
more. Bigger, better and less expensive.

Try Before You Buy

Download fully functioning demo versions of our programs. You can test them out and see if they meet your needs before deciding whether or not to buy.

Everything Old is New Again
We've updated our entire line of single switch programs for Mac and Windows. They're bigger, with new features and a new lease on life. If you own any of our older programs now

http://www.hsj.com/

Print version of UAAACT Newsletter to be Discontinued

<u>This is the last print edition of the UAAACT Newsletter!</u>

In order to save money on postage and printing, the UAAACT Leadership Council has decided to discontinue the printed UAAACT Newsletter. We will continue to prepare three UAAACT Newsletters each year, but from now on they will be electronic. Dave Makin will be the UAAACT Newsletter editor for the 2006-07 school year. He will prepare the newsletter, emailing it to The Computer Center, and Scott Baggaley will post it to the UAAACT web site. You will receive an email from us alerting you to the posting of a new UAAACT Newsletter at the UAAACT web site.

For you information, Scott Baggaley has posted past issues of the UAAACT Newsletter at the UAAACT web site. If you would like to refer to an article you read in a previous newsletter, go to the web site (www.uaaact.org) and click on "UAAACT Newsletters."

To insure you receive future UAAACT Newsletters, please call (801-887-9380) or email (lmarcoux@utah.gov) Lynn Marcoux at The Computer Center for Citizens to verify your email address. While you are updating your email address with Lynn, you might want to thank her for all she does to keep the UAAACT program alive. Equipment orders, UAAACT training events, and all the paper work associated with the UAAACT grant are in Lynn's capable hands. Thanks Lynn!!!

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